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Interview with Patricia Swenney, Spiral of Life, 2009 (audio)

Patricia Swenney

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PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY
SUSTAINABILITY HISTORY PROJECT
INTERVIEW INDEX

INTERVIEWEE: Patricia Sweeney

Interviewer: Hanna Flagg

Date: March 5, 2009

Location of Interview: Patricia Sweeney's Home

Research Assistant: Dylan Bless

Interview Series: SUSTAINING NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES & COMMUNITIES

Recording Equipment: DIGITAL RECORDER (WINDOWS MEDIA AUDIO FILE) WITH AN
 EXTERNAL, OMNIDIRECTIONAL MICROPHONE

Time Notes

0:18	Name
0:25	Do we have permission?
0:05	Describe you business at Spiral of Life
1:45	What services do you provide at your work?
4:35	What is a day of work like for you?
8:30	Previous experience. How have you come to do what you do?
11:02	Certification requirements?
13:08	How has the Dougy Center in particular influenced your work?
16:15	Relationship between home funerals, home births and hospice care?
18:25	Main barrier is fear of death. What are the physical or emotional aspects of home funeral?
21:15	Religious or cultural barriers?
23:45	Reasons why you might advice someone against a home funeral.
26:17	What is your view on the modern funeral industry?
29:20	Is there a middle ground between the modern funeral and home funeral?
31:30	How do you define sustainability and how do you relate this to the home funeral industry?

35:10	Could you tell me about any legal barriers from local state or federal?
37:40	Advice for someone who wants a home funeral, but their State does not allow it?
40:40	What is your view of the historical context of the home funerals within the US?
45:25	Where do you see home funeral going in the future?
47:55	Have you noticed as the media portrays sustainability that you business has become more popular?
52:50	Any other closing remarks or anything else you would like to add to this interview?